



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,908	03/29/2004	Lynn A. Buckner		9423
LYNN A. BUCKNER PO Box 609 Chickamauga, GA 30707				
7590 04/15/2009				
EXAMINER				
BEATCH, THOMAS A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3671				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/15/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/810,908

Applicant(s)

BUCKNER, LYNN A.

Examiner

THOMAS A. BEACH

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/55/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Atzberger 5,140,759. Atzberger '759 shows a vacuum boring and mud recovery vacuum hose attachment method, comprising the steps of providing a suction end of a vacuum conduit, a water spray nozzle 16 and a means to attach the spray nozzle adjacent to the vacuum hose suction end (fig 3), and the suction end of the vacuum conduit having an indentation (figs 2 & 3) in its circumference so as to restrict objects from entering the vacuum conduit which are too large in size to continue through the vacuum hose and the indentation in the vacuum conduit circumference (since the ring that nozzles 16/17 has a narrower diameter than the hose 10) also being the location of attaching the water spray nozzle so as to direct sprayed water under pressure to emulsify dirt located adjacent to the suction end of the vacuum conduit (fig 2).

As concern claim 11, Atzberger shows the steps of having the vacuum conduit with a first circumference and the suction end of the vacuum conduit having a bell shaped portion having a second circumference larger than the first circumference, the

bell shaped portion having the one or more indentation and having one or more water spray nozzles (fig 3).

As concern claim 12, Atzberger shows the steps of: the spray nozzle being selected from one of a pulse jet, a rotary jet, a jetter nozzle and a fixed spray jet 16.

As concern claim 13, Atzberger shows the steps of facing the spray nozzle housed within the indentation so as to spray towards the center of an area to be vacuumed (figs 1-2).

As concern claim 14, Atzberger shows the steps of: providing a second and third spray nozzle 16 housed within a second and third indentation on the vacuum conduit (figs 2-3).

As concern claim 15, Atzberger shows a vacuum boring and mud recovery vacuum hose attachment method, comprising the steps of providing a vacuum conduit having a vacuum source attached to a first end, a second end being a suction end of the vacuum conduit, the first end having a first circumference and the second end having an inward rolled edge with a second circumference smaller than the first circumference (figs 1-3).

As concern claim 16, Atzberger shows a vacuum boring and mud recovery vacuum hose attachment method, comprising the steps of providing a vacuum conduit having a vacuum source attached to a first end, a second end being a suction end of the vacuum conduit, a spray nozzle hose connected to an aerodynamic support and a spray nozzle within the second end (figs 1-3).

As concern claim 17, Atzberger shows the steps of: providing the vacuum conduit with a first circumference and a vacuum conduit bell shaped portion having a second circumference larger than the first circumference and having an indentation in the circumference of the conduit bell, and having a water spray nozzle positioned within the indentation, and the water spray nozzle directed so as to emulsify dirt located at the suction end of the vacuum conduit (figs 1-3).

As concern claim 18, Atzberger shows the steps of: mounting the aerodynamic support within the bell portion and the aerodynamic support supporting the spray nozzle adjacent to the open end of the vacuum conduit bell (figs 1-3).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12/30/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Newly added claim language does not overcome the rejection since Atzberger show the still show the varying inner diameters of the elements in figure 2 and the spray nozzle (lower 17) is still considered exterior of the second end of the conduit.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Beach whose telephone number is

571.272.6988. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571.272.6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas A. Beach

/Thomas A Beach/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3671

April 15, 2009

THOMAS A. BEACH
Primary Examiner
Group 3600